[Mr. Kottalil P. Abraham.]

(c) the persons or officers responsible for maintaining in good condition the paddy they purchase from the ryots until distribution?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: (a) No. (b) Yes.

(c) Purchasing Proverthicars and Accountants on the responsibility and control of the Tahsildars.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKER: May I know whether the paddy which was collected in the month of Meenom and Medom was not removed from the bins even up to the time of Dhanu 1119?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: It was not removed because there was no damage to the paddy collected there.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKER (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnathur*): Are the Government aware that in the taluk of Kartikapally much damage has been caused on account of the delay in removing paddy from the place of storage?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: It was reported that unless paddy was removed, damage was likely to be caused. Immediately instructions were issued to the Tahsildar, Kartikapally, to dispose of it in that taluk or to transport the same to Karunagapally and Quilon taluks. That has been done.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: In answer to part (a), may I know whether any enquiry has been made in the matter?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: Yes, Sir. Whenever I go to a place the first thing I do is to enquire whether the paddy purchased and stored remains in good condition.

Travancoreans owning paddy lands in British India.

34 * MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether Travancoreans possess paddy lands in the adjacent British Indian districts; and

(b) whether such persons are permitted to transport to Travancore for their consumption any portion of the paddy grown in their fields in British India?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Food Grains Purchase Officer*) (a) Yes. (b) No.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: May I know whether any Travancoreans are compelled to sell their stock of paddy grown in their fields in the adjacent British Indian Districts?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: Travancoreans are not permitted to export their paddy from British India.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: May I know whether it is a case in which they are compelled to dispose of their paddy at the spot?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: They can either dispose of the paddy or keep it there. The only thing is that they cannot bring it over here.

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MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: Is there any compulsion to dispose of the paddy?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: No. The owners can keep it there for a sufficiently long time.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR: May I know whether the Government have ascertained why the people are not permitted to transport their own paddy to their places?

PRESIDENT: That is the arrangement made by the Madras Government. The question has been under discussion by the Madras Government. I myself labour under that difficulty. I have lands in the Madras Presidency from which I cannot bring paddy, either for the use of my family in Madras or here. They allow, out of about 270 acres that I have got, only two bags of paddy to be transported to Madras for the consumption of my family. That is the arrangement which the Madras Government have made. But we have pointed out that in the case of adjacent owners, a certain kind of mutual give-and-take would be useful and I believe some orders have been passed here on that matter.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Yes, Sir. But the Madras Government have not acceded even to that position. I may add that in regard to the paddy which is grown near the enclaves in Shencotta taluk.— — — —

PRESIDENT: You mean the stoppage.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Yes, Sir. Even there, they want to assess the total quantity that passes through Shencotta. Correspondence is going on in regard to that.

PRESIDENT: Evidently the Madras Government are particularly anxious about the paddy grown near Travancore. But difficulties of such a character are not apparently present with regard to transport of paddy between District and District in the Madras Presidency, or the Madras Presidency and Orissa, or the Madras Presidency and Mysore. But the matter is under correspondence.

High price of fish.

35. * **MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR** (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any steps to bring down the price of fish which has gone up to 14¼ chuckrams as seen from page 672, Part I of the Gazette, dated 21st December 1943?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS (*Secretary to Government*): Compared with various other food materials Government consider that there has been no abnormal increase in the price of fish within the State. The price referred to relates to Devicolam where the cost of transport is the deciding factor in the fixation of prices. No steps, therefore, appear to be necessary to bring down the price of fish.

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